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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARY L. LANDRIEU, a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Rabbi Abraham Shemtov, National Director of American Friends of Lubavitch, will lead us in prayer this morning.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, our Father in heaven, grace this august body of the U.S. Senate with wisdom, strength, vision, and clear focus as they seek to lead this Nation, and as this Nation leads the world in the struggle of freedom against tyranny and of good over evil.

As the world marks the 100th anniversary since the birth of Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson, of blessed memory, we must heed his teachings that unity is so much stronger than division, goodness is so much better than evil. His message to people of various origins and persuasions was that we must always be on the same side, for we are all children of the same God.

We must find the inherent goodness in each other and encourage one another to fulfill our charge from the Almighty God to perfect the world under His sovereignty. In this way we can bring light in place of darkness, redemption in place of despair, and happiness and peace to all who seek it.

So as we may have opinions which differ, let us not waver. Let us be strong, and with God's blessings, we will prevail. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARY L. LANDRIEU led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 12, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARY L. LANDRIEU, a Senator from the State of Louisiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Ms. LANDRIEU thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 706 occur at 11 o'clock this morning, that the additional time be divided as previously provided, and that the remaining provisions of the previous order remain in effect, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, we will shortly conclude the debate on the confirmation. The two Senators from Alaska are going to speak about the new judge they are going to get in Alaska.

I also note that we are moving along with the energy bill. We have some important amendments pending. We have a number of important issues. There is now talk of being able to complete this bill by a week from this Friday.

As everyone knows, the important issues that remain—there are a lot of important issues, but the matters that appear to be quite contentious are those dealing with CAFE standards, ANWR drilling, and electricity regulation. So it appears that there is light at the end of the tunnel and that we can finish this legislation. We certainly hope so. But Members are going to have to be willing to come and offer amendments, and Members are going to have to be ready to vote at all times of the day and night.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF RALPH R. BEISTLINE, OF ALASKA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now go into executive session and proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 706, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ralph R. Beistline, of Alaska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, we are going to be voting in a few minutes on Judge Ralph Beistline to be United States District Judge in my State of Alaska.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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